

I. Debbie Fish called the meeting to order at 7:45 pm (Paul Pierce joins us later)

II. Prayer – Father Vern

III. Agenda Items

A. Acceptance of Pastoral Council Minutes

Motion to accept: Beth Buczko

Seconded: Bill Bowen

B. Review Agenda, Calendar

C. Commission Reports

1. Communications

--nothing new

2. Faith Development

--“To Love and to Serve” social-justice workshop (7 weeks): Friday Feb 13 on; 7-9 pm)

--people may come to one, some, or all of them, but are encouraged to come to all.

3. Family Life

--Cancer support group up and running

--discussion regarding getting the Holy Hospital offerings of things like cosmetologist makeovers, dietitians, etc. Consensus was to have a few people coming and then ask them if they’d be interested.

--Holyoke Hospital also wants to put the St. Francis cancer support group in its database: council said this would be fine.

--Widows and widowers support group up and running

--Food pantry: still the problem of food abandoned in the fridge: do NOT leave extra food there.

--Belchertown CAN drive: collected more than 50 boxes of food donations

4. Hospitality

--nothing new to report

5. Spiritual Life

--Fr. Vern reported that the commission is running smoothly

6. Vocations

-- St. Francis will not host the Diocesan Vocation Day

--Vocations cross booked through May

--Considering a seminarian talent show as a fundraiser for the seminarians

IV. Old Business

A. Monument to the Unborn

- waiting for another bid
- Vermont can't cut stone until Spring (pink marble)
- Ground needs to be prepared—4-ft.-deep footing—get the labor for this donated?

B. Pastoral Council Elections

- Fr. Vern: nominate people to serve on a commission for a year; do it in April—then have commissions choose their chairpeople from among members. Have flyers to explain what each commission does one week, then nominations next week.
- Bill Bowen: explain commissions, two per weekend, prior to nominations

V. New Business

A. Outside groups wanting to come in and fundraise

- Fr. Vern: let's limit this somehow. Council: How about no more than once every five years?

B. NCYC fundraiser: Spaghetti dinner 28 March or 18 April

C. Paul Pierce: Dan Kane Singers could perform in church in fall as a rectory fundraiser

D. Fr. Vern: Fathers of the Poor will be the Lenten Mission. (Fr. Roach—NEXT year [this year is Fr. McCarthy])

E. Bill Bowen: change meeting time to 7 pm? (No decision taken)

F. Stan: Upcoming and proposed fundraisers include:

- Tupperware (parishioner is organizing: 40% to go to the parish)
- Cash raffle (drawing on Mother's Day)
- Shed raffle

G. Next meeting will cover:

- Monument to the Unborn
- Election process (pastoral council commission member choosing process)

VI. Closing Prayer

Meeting adjourned at 8:45.

The next meeting will be on March 3.